

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Wild and Scenic Snake River Fee Proposal

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS (RAC)

What is a Resource Advisory Council?

A Resource Advisory Council or RAC is a statutory advisory committee established under section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. These citizen-based groups provide an opportunity for individuals from all backgrounds and interests to have a voice in the management of these lands, and to help improve their health and productivity. RAC recommendations address all public land issues, including: land use planning, recreation, noxious weeds, and wild horse and burro herd management areas.

How are the RAC areas established?

The RAC boundaries are established by the Secretary of Interior. In the western states, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) formed 31 Resource Advisory Councils. In Idaho, Oregon, and Washington they include;

- Idaho: Boise District, Coeur d' Alene District, Idaho Fall District, Twin Falls District
- Oregon: Coastal Oregon, Northwest Oregon, Southwest Oregon, John Day-Snake, Southeast Oregon, Steens Mountain
- Washington: Eastern Washington, San Juans

Who is on the RACs?

Each RAC consists of 10 to 15 members from diverse interests in local communities, including ranchers, environmental groups, tribes, State and local government officials, academics, and other public land users. Each Council must include representatives of three broad categories:

- Commercial/commodity interests;
- Environmental/historical groups (including wild horse and burro and dispersed recreation);
- State and local government, Indian tribes, and the public at large.

The members are chartered and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, with a lead agency and a Designated Federal Officer overseeing the activities of the RAC.

Under what authority does the John Day- Snake RAC operate?

The John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council (JD-S RAC) is a statutory advisory committee established under section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act. The John Day-Snake RAC consists of 15 members, chartered and appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Under their charter, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the lead federal agency for overseeing the activities of this RAC. The JD-S RAC serves as an advisory council for planning and management of the public lands within the boundaries of the BLM's Prineville and Vale Districts, and the Deschutes, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Ochoco National Forests.

So how can the JD-S RAC have a role in the Snake River Fee Proposal?

As part of the current Charter, the JD-S RAC can make recommendations regarding the implementation, establishment or elimination of recreation fees within the state or region covered by the JD-S RAC. These recommendations are presented to the Secretary of Interior through the Designated Federal Officer.

Both sides of the Snake River within the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest are included in the boundary established by the Secretary of Interior for the John Day-Snake RAC.

What kind of Recreation Interests are represented on the JD-S RAC?

Their Charter specifically allows for; person who represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicles, and commercial or dispersed recreation activities.

Since I live in a state adjacent to Oregon, can I be on the John Day –Snake RAC?

Yes. John Day-Snake RAC membership is not limited to Oregon residents. For example as shown in the Charter, if you represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, commercial recreation activities, dispersed recreational activities, represent a national environmental organization, hold a state, county or local elected office or represent the affected public-at-large you can apply to be a member.

Where can I find out more about the John Day- Snake RAC?

Information about the John Day-Snake RAC, their agendas, charter and meeting minutes can be found on the BLM website at; <http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/jdrac.php>

Who are the current members of the Joh Day- Snake RAC?

Membership on the John Day-Snake RAC is composed of;

- Five members represent commodity interests such as grazing permittees, commercial timber, energy and mining, developed recreation and/or off-highway vehicle groups, and transportation & rights-of-way.
- Five members represent conservation interests such as environmental organizations, historic & cultural interests, conservation, and dispersed recreation.
- Five members represent community interests such as elected officials, Indian Tribes, State resource agencies, academicians involved in natural sciences, and the public-at-large.

The current members are listed at; http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/jdrac_members.php

Where do I find out about when the next JD-S RAC meeting will be held?

The John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council meetings are posted as a “Notice of Public Meeting” in the Federal Register. An example of the website is shown here

(<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/05/25/2016-12335/notice-of-public-meeting-for-the-john-day-snake-resource-advisory-council>).

Are these RAC meetings open to the public?

The RAC meetings are open to the public. Information to be distributed to the John Day-Snake RAC can be requested prior to the start of each meeting. A public comment period is also held before or after the meetings, and are usually open for 30 minutes, with each speaker addressing the RAC for a maximum of 5 minutes. A public call-in number is also available.

For more information of RACs please see these websites:

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/resource_advisory.html

<http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/jdrac.php>